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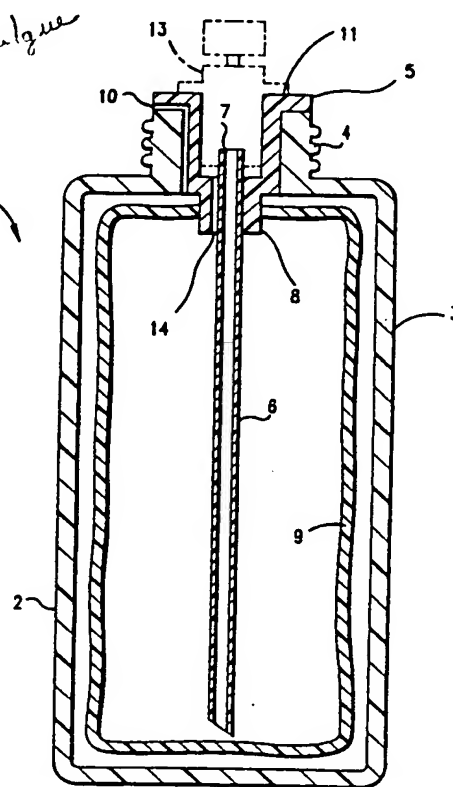
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→ pour d'insérer poche par gâchette
→ de ventilation
substitut Tube syphon

(54) Title: INSERTABLE BARRIER BAG OR LINER FOR A NARROW NECK DISPENSING CONTAINER AND METHOD OF FILLING SUCH A BARRIER BAG OR LINER THROUGH THE SYPHON TUBE

(57) Abstract

A dispensing container (1) including an interior barrier bag (9) is disclosed, along with a method for filling the barrier bag (9) with a material to be dispensed. The dispensing structure includes a non-vented pump (13) and a syphon tube structure (6), and a mechanism for venting the interior of the container to the atmosphere (10) and for venting the interior of the barrier bag during filling (14). During assembly and filling, the barrier bag is wrapped or collapsed around the syphon tube structure (6), so that the syphon tube structure (6) and the barrier bag (9) can be easily inserted into a conventional container. After insertion, the barrier bag (9) is inflated (with either an air blast or the introduction of the dispensed product) and filled with product. After filling a pump structure (13) can be attached to the container. The method and apparatus allow a barrier bag device to be used on conventionally-designed container structures. The method and apparatus are particularly useful with containers which are made up at least partially of recycled materials. The apparatus is particularly useful for highly viscous products. The container (1) has a vented syphon tube structure (109) which is inserted into the container before it is filled. Filling is accomplished by inserting a filling nozzle (12) into the container (1) so that it cooperates with the top of the syphon tube (116). Filling of the container (1) therefore occurs through the syphon tube. The vent in the syphon tube structure allows the air in the container (1) to be vented as the container (1) is filled. Because the container is filled through the syphon tube, the product (105) completely fills the syphon tube at the time when the pump structure is inserted into the container. The vent structure (111) can be used as a vent for the container (1) during a dispensing operation as well.



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**INSERTABLE BARRIER BAG OR LINER FOR A NARROW NECK
DISPENSING CONTAINER AND METHOD OF FILLING SUCH A
BARRIER BAG OR LINER THROUGH THE SYPHON TUBE**

Background of the Invention

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a dispenser including a dispensing pump and a dispensing container. More particularly, the present invention relates to a dispensing container which includes a barrier bag for protecting the dispensed contents from contamination within the container. The present invention also includes a syphon tube through which the container may be filled.

10 Description of the Related Art

It is generally known to provide a barrier bag within a dispensing device to protect the contents contained within the dispenser from any other materials which may be in the container. For example, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,008,830; 4,020,978; 4,457,455; 4,457,454; 4,696,415; 5,004,123; 5,012,956; 5,020,691; 15 5,115,944; 5,135,137; 5,137,179; 5,143,294; 5,156,295; 5,156,299; 5,156,300 and 5,176,294 each show dispensing devices wherein a barrier bag is used to surround and seal the dispensed contents within the dispensing container. Often, the barrier bag is used to prevent contact between a pressurized gas used to propel the contents out, e.g. in an aerosol device, and the contents themselves. In other 20 prior art devices, the barrier bag is used to prevent contact between the dispensed contents and air which may be contained within the container.

5 In the prior art devices containing a barrier bag, it is often necessary to use a special fitting on the upper portion of the container to allow for the insertion and filling of the barrier bag. This special fitting makes prior art barrier bag systems incompatible with standard dispensing containers, and also requires additional assembly steps. Furthermore, the prior art devices containing barrier bags are not constructed to be used with conventional non-vented pumps which include a vented container structure. Finally, the prior art devices are normally filled through the bottleneck, with the syphon tube being inserted after filling. For viscous products, such an arrangement often results in difficulty in priming the pump.

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Summary of the Invention

The present invention is directed to an insertable barrier bag or liner, that can be automatically inserted through the neck of a conventionally-shaped plastic bottle or container. The present invention includes structure for venting air from the interior of the barrier bag while the bag is being filled with product, as well as structure for venting air in the space between the interior walls of the container and the exterior wall of the barrier bag.

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The venting structures of the present invention are provided in a fitting which is designed to fit within the neck of a container or bottle. The fitting is designed so that a bag made of a barrier material can be sealed on an outer surface of the fitting to provide a leakproof seal of the barrier bag to the fitting. The barrier bag is affixed in a position so that it clears the neck of the container when the fitting is inserted into the bottle or container, allowing the full expansion of the bag within the walls of the container.

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The fitting is designed to receive a syphon tube with a diameter which permits the barrier bag to be wrapped around the syphon tube before insertion in the bottle or container. The barrier bag remains wrapped around the syphon tube by its own adhesion properties, static adhesion, or through use of an adhesive, and can therefore be easily and automatically inserted into the container through the neck of the container prior to a filling operation. Because the syphon tube is attached to the fitting structure and barrier bag when they are inserted

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into the container, a syphon tube structure need not be attached to the pump structure when it is connected to the container.

The fact that the barrier bag is wrapped around the syphon tube before filling is an advantageous feature of the present invention, because it minimizes the amount of air trapped in the barrier bag, allowing filling of the barrier bag at maximum speed. The present invention is therefore advantageous because it allows easy assembly and filling of a dispensing container with an interior barrier bag and may be used on any conventionally shaped dispensing container or bottle used in conjunction with a conventional non-vented pump.

The present invention also includes an easy-to-manufacture structure for venting the container interior. The present invention is easy to insert into a container, and easy to fill once inserted into the container, without the use of complicated assembly or filling equipment. This arrangement is particularly advantageous when used with a viscous product, since it eliminates an air gap in the syphon tube, which can make the pump hard to prime.

The present apparatus is particularly useful in that it does not require disassembly and reassembly of the pump structure during the filling process. The present invention therefore is much more economical and efficient, and allows easy priming of the pump.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 shows a cross-sectional view of the present invention, with the barrier bag in an expanded state;

Fig. 2 shows a cross-sectional bottom view of the barrier bag and fitment of the present invention;

Figs. 3a and 3b show cross-sectional views of the fitment of the present invention;

Fig. 4 shows a cross-sectional view of the present invention, with the barrier bag wrapped around the syphon tube.

Fig. 5 shows a first embodiment of the syphon tube structure of the present invention during a filling operation.

Fig. 6 shows the first embodiment of the syphon tube structure of the present invention after a filling operation, with the pump mounted to the container.

5 Fig. 7 shows a second embodiment of the syphon tube structure of the present invention during a filling operation.

Fig. 8 shows the second embodiment of the syphon tube structure of the present invention after a filling operation, with the pump mounted to the container.

10 Fig. 9 shows a first alternative configuration of the syphon tube structure in the present invention.

Fig. 10 shows a second alternative configuration of the syphon tube structure in the present invention.

Fig. 11 shows a cross-sectional view of the syphon tube of the second alternative configuration, after the pump is mounted to the container.

15 Fig. 12 shows a cross-sectional view of the syphon tube of the second alternative configuration, during the filling process.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

20 Fig. 1 shows a first embodiment of the present dispensing device. A dispenser 1 includes a dispensing container 2. Dispensing container 2 may be of a conventional form which includes a relatively wide body portion 3 and a relatively narrow neck portion 4. Neck portion 4 can include threads for engagement with threads on a cap (not shown), or a cap could be crimped or attached by any known means to neck portion 4.

25 Inserted within container is a syphon tube 6 for conveying a dispensed product from the container to a pump structure 7. Syphon tube 6 is connected to a fitment 11 via a syphon tube retaining portion 8 which retains the syphon tube 6 and a barrier bag 9 in the container 2. As shown in Fig. 2, the upper portion of barrier bag 9 is sealed (through conventional means, e.g., ultrasonic welding or adhesives) to fitment 11 via the syphon tube retaining portion 8, so as
30 to seal the interior of barrier bag 9 from the interior of container 2. Fig. 2 shows

the barrier bag 9 in a flattened condition, for example when it is first attached to the fitment 11.

Barrier bag 9 is constructed of a thin sheet of a barrier film (e.g. foil or a polymeric material) which is bonded around the edges to form a sealed structure. As can be seen in Fig. 2, the upper edges of the film which makes up the barrier bag 9 are bonded together at their radially outer ends, and as described above the radially inner portions of the upper edges of the film are bonded to the fitment 11 so that the bag is sealed to the fitment 11. The radially outer and lower edges of the film are bonded together to form a sealed barrier bag 9.

Figs. 2, 3a and 3b show the particular structure of the fitment of the present invention. As can be seen in Fig. 2, syphon tube retaining portion 8 includes an outer surface upon which the barrier bag 9 is bonded to form a seal. A second vent structure 14 passes through the interior of the syphon tube retaining portion 8 between the syphon tube 6 and the syphon tube retaining portion 8. As will be described below, this second vent structure 14 allows air to be vented out of the syphon tube 6 and barrier bag 9 during filling. A vent structure 10 on the outer surface of fitment 11 allows the interior of the container 2 to be vented to the atmosphere to maintain atmospheric pressure on the exterior of the barrier bag 9. Fitment 11 includes a flange 5 to allow engagement of the fitment 11 with the neck 4 of container 2.

Fig. 4 shows the barrier bag 9 and fitment 11 in their configuration immediately after insertion into container 2. In order to allow easy insertion of the bag 9 into a conventional container 2, the bag is initially wrapped around the syphon tube 6 so as to exhibit a low cross-sectional profile. The barrier bag 9 can be retained in a position wrapped around the syphon tube 6 through its own adhesive properties (as with some thermoplastics), through static adherence, or through the use of a low shear-strength adhesive on the exterior of the barrier bag 9. Although the barrier bag 9 is preferably wrapped around the syphon tube 6, the barrier bag could also be collapsed around the syphon tube in any other equivalent manner, including using a pleated barrier bag 9 which is collapsed in an "accordion" manner around the syphon tube 6.

After the syphon tube 6, barrier bag 9, and fitment 11 structures are inserted as a unit into the container 2, the barrier bag can be inflated to the shape shown in Fig. 1. Inflation can be accomplished by an air blast directed from above down the syphon tube 6, or can occur during filling of the barrier bag 9 with a product to be dispensed. To fill the barrier bag 9 with a product to be dispensed, a filling nozzle 12 (shown in dotted lines in Fig. 4) is inserted into the interior of fitment 11 to engage the top 7 of syphon tube 6, and product is dispensed down the syphon tube 6 and into the interior of the barrier bag 9 until the barrier bag 9 is filled with product. A vent structure 10, consisting of a groove channelled into the exterior of the fitment 11, is used during filling to vent air in the interior of the container 2 which is displaced during filling of the barrier bag 9. A second vent structure 14 is used to vent air initially contained within the syphon tube 6 and barrier bag 9 to the atmosphere as this air is displaced by product during filling of the barrier bag 9.

After barrier bag 9 is filled with product, a conventional pump structure 7 (shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1) is inserted into fitment 11 and attached by any known conventional mechanism. The upper end 7 of syphon tube 6 projects upwardly into fitment 11 so that it can be inserted directly into the inlet to pump 13. Pump structure 13 can include any form of conventional dispensing actuator/dispensing nozzle structure. Thus, as is known in the art, as an actuator on the pump 13 is actuated, product will be drawn into the pump 13 and dispensed out a nozzle on actuator. During the return stroke of the pump, product is drawn into the interior of pump 13 through syphon tube 6; the atmospheric pressure which exists in the container 2 interior -- by way of the venting structure 10 -- allows fluid to be drawn into the pump 13 and the barrier bag 9 to gradually collapse around syphon tube 6. Eventually, the barrier bag 9 will completely collapse around syphon tube 6 as product is dispensed, so that removal of the syphon tube 6, barrier bag 9 and fitment 11 can be easily accomplished through neck 4 of container 2. The container then can be refilled using the process described above, using a new barrier bag 9/syphon tube 6/fitment 11.

As will be readily understood, the barrier bag 9, retaining structure 8 and container could have a variety of shapes, depending upon the particular application. Furthermore, the vent structures 10 and 14 could be located in a variety of locations on the disclosed structure, as long as they provide the recited functions above. It will be understood that multiple variations of the disclosed structure are contemplated within the scope of the claims below.

Fig. 5 represents the syphon tube structure of present invention during a filling operation. A container or bottle 1 of any conventional type used for holding a product to be dispensed has inserted therein a syphon tube structure 102. The syphon tube structure 102 can be a separately formed, as shown in Fig. 1, or could be integrally molded with container 1. Syphon tube structure 102 has a radially-extending flange 103 which cooperates with the neck 4 of container 1 to seat syphon tube structure 102 in container 1. Syphon tube structure 102 also has a syphon tube 108 and an upper portion 109. Syphon tube structure 102 is inserted into container 1 before container 1 is filled with product 105.

After insertion of syphon tube structure 102 into container 1, container 1 is filled with a product 105 to be dispensed from container 1. Filling is accomplished by inserting a filling nozzle 12 into the upper portion 109 of syphon tube structure 102. The bottom of filling nozzle 12 cooperates with a flange 110 on upper portion 109. Product 105 is then pumped or forced out filling nozzle 12, down syphon tube 108, and into container 1. Upper portion 109 has a vent path 111. As product 105 flows into container 1, the air in the container which it displaces is pushed up to the top of the container 1 and out vent path 111. Filling of product 105 into container 1 is continued until the quantity of product 105 in container 1 reaches a desirable level, generally when product 5 reaches the level of the flange 10.

Fig. 6 represents the apparatus of the present invention after filling has been completed, and immediately after insertion of a pump 13 (shown schematically in Fig. 2). The internal structure of pump 13 can be of any type known to those skilled in the art for dispensing product from a container. As can be seen in Fig. 2, because of the manner in which container 1 was filled according to the description above, the product has filled the interior of the syphon tube 108

all the way up to the flange 110. Therefore, when pump 13 is inserted into upper portion 109, as shown in Fig. 2, there is no air in syphon tube 108. The lower inlet 113 of pump 13 is inserted directly into product 105. Priming the pump requires only drawing the product 105 through lower inlet 113 and into pump 13. This arrangement makes priming of pump 13 much easier, since only the air in pump 13 must be evacuated, and there is no air in syphon tube 108 which must be drawn up and out of the nozzle. To aid in the filling and priming of the pump-container combination when highly viscous products are used, it is advantageous to make the syphon tube 108 of a relatively large diameter.

As shown in Fig. 6, pump 13 has an upper flange 114 which may cooperate with the flange 103 and neck 4 to secure the pump 13 to the container 1. Flange 114 can have a vent path 115. Vent paths 111 and 115 cooperate to allow venting of the container during dispensing operations, i.e., during operation of pump 112. Thus, as product 105 is drawn out of container 1 by the action of pump 13, air will travel through vent paths 111 and 115 to fill the resulting space in container 1.

Fig. 7 shows an alternative embodiment where the vent path 111 is located on flange 103. This embodiment allows the filling nozzle to cooperate with both the flange 110 and sidewalls 116 of upper portion 109. Fig. 8 shows this embodiment with the pump 13 inserted. As can be seen in Fig. 8, this embodiment allows the pump 13 body to cooperate with the flange 110 as well as sidewalls 116. There is therefore no need for an engaging flange on pump 13. Venting of the container during a dispensing operation can occur directly through vent path 111.

Fig. 9 demonstrates that the syphon tube 108 of the present invention need not be straight-sided as shown in Figs. 5-8. Syphon tube 108 may have a narrowed portion 120, or alternatively a series of stepped portions gradually increasing in diameter. The size and shape of syphon tube can be designed to be particularly effective for the degree of viscosity of the product to be dispensed. Stepping of the syphon tube 108 allows the portion of product left in the syphon tube after the container is empty to be reduced.

Figs. 10-11 show an alternative design of the syphon tube in the present invention. Figs. 11 and 12 are cross-sectional views of the syphon tube in this alternative design. As can be seen from these figures, the syphon tube is corrugated along its length. The syphon tube is constructed of a resilient material so that it is normally in the configuration shown in Fig. 11. Fig. 12 represents the syphon tube configuration during a filling process. Thus, when filling nozzle 12 is inserted into upper portion 109 and product is pumped or forced out of filling nozzle 12, the pressure of the product pushes the walls of syphon tube 108 outwardly so that the syphon tube assumes the configuration shown in Fig. 12. The increase in size of the diameter of the syphon tube 108 allows filling of the container 1 to proceed rapidly. After filling is completed, the resiliency of the syphon tube 108 causes the corrugations to collapse to the configuration of Fig. 11. This configuration allows the volume of the syphon tube 108 to be reduced. Reducing the volume of the syphon tube 108 ensures that there is a relatively small volume of product left over in the syphon tube after all of the product 105 has been evacuated from the container 1 during a dispensing operation. Although Fig. 10 shows the corrugated syphon tube structure used with the upper portion structure of Figs. 5-6, this syphon tube structure could be used equally well with the upper portion structure of Figs. 7-8.

One technique which can be used to assist in the filling of the apparatus of the present invention is to apply a vacuum to vent 111, thereby drawing out excess air in container 1 and assisting in drawing product 105 from filling nozzle 12 into container 1. This use of a vacuum is easily accomplished during a filling operation, and does not require disassembly of any of the parts of the apparatus, unlike the circumstance where the product must be drawn up a syphon tube by the application of a vacuum to the pump.

Claims

1. A barrier structure for holding a product to be dispensed, comprising:
 - a. a fitment structure including an axially inner end, said fitment structure including a venting path on a radially outer surface of said fitment structure;
 - 5 b. a flexible bag structure sealingly secured to said axially inner end of said fitment; and
 - c. a syphon tube structure connected to said axially inner end of said fitment and extending axially within an interior of said flexible bag structure.
2. The barrier structure of claim 1, wherein:

said fitment structure includes a second venting path on a radially inner surface of said axially inner end.
3. An interior product container for use in a dispenser having an outer container structure including a neck portion, comprising:
 - a. a fitment structure including an axially inner end, said fitment structure being engageable with said neck portion, said fitment structure including
 - 5 a venting structure for providing fluid communication between an interior of said container structure and the atmosphere when said product container is inserted within said container structure;
 - b. a flexible bag structure sealingly secured to said axially inner end of said fitment; and
 - 10 c. a syphon tube structure connected to said axially inner end of said fitment and extending axially within an interior of said flexible bag structure.
4. The interior product container of claim 3, wherein:

said fitment structure includes a second venting structure for providing fluid communication between the interior of said flexible bag structure and the atmosphere during a filling process wherein product fills said flexible bag structure through said syphon tube structure.
- 5

5. A method of providing a dispensing container comprising the steps of:
- a. providing a container;
 - b. inserting a sealed barrier structure into an interior of said container, said barrier bag being collapsed around a syphon tube structure extending substantially within the barrier structure, said syphon tube structure being connected to a retaining structure including a vent structure providing fluid communication between the interior of said container and the atmosphere;
 - c. expanding said barrier structure to substantially fill the interior of said container;
 - d. filling said barrier structure with a product to be dispensed through said tubular structure; and
 - e. attaching a pump structure to said container in fluid communication with said tubular structure.
6. A dispensing apparatus comprising:
- a. a container;
 - b. a sealed barrier structure within an interior of said container;
 - c. a syphon tube structure extending within an interior of said barrier structure, said barrier structure being sealed around said syphon tube structure, said syphon tube structure being connected to a retaining structure including a vent structure providing fluid communication between the interior of said container and the atmosphere, said barrier structure containing a product to be dispensed; and
 - d. a pump structure connected to said container and in fluid communication with said tubular structure,
- wherein said barrier structure is initially collapsed against said tubular structure when not filled with said product to be dispensed, and wherein said barrier structure expands to substantially fill the interior of said container when filled with said product to be dispensed.
7. A method for filling a container with a product to be dispensed comprising the steps of:

providing a container;
disposing a syphon tube structure at least partially within the container,
said syphon tube structure comprising a syphon tube, such that said syphon tube
extends substantially axially inwardly into the container;
engaging a filling nozzle with the syphon tube structure near an axially
outward end of said syphon tube;
dispensing a product through said filling nozzle so that it flows through said
syphon tube and into said container, whereby said product completely fills said
syphon tube; and
disengaging said filling nozzle from said syphon tube structure.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:
providing a vent path in said syphon tube structure, said vent path
remaining open during said step of dispensing a product through said filling
nozzle, whereby air within the container is vented from the container.
9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:
during said step of dispensing a product through said filling nozzle,
applying a vacuum to said vent path to draw air from said container, and to draw
said product into said container.
10. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:
providing a flange which engages said container on said syphon tube
structure, and providing said vent path through said flange.
11. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:
providing an axially-inwardly projecting sidewall on said syphon tube
structure, and providing said vent path through said sidewall.
12. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:
attaching a pump to said syphon tube structure after said step of
disengaging said filling nozzle from said syphon tube structure.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:
providing a circumferential flange connected to said syphon tube, and
engaging said pump with said circumferential flange.
14. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:
providing an axially-inwardly projecting sidewall on said syphon tube
structure, and engaging said pump with said sidewall.
15. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:
providing a circumferential flange connecting to said syphon tube and said
syphon tube structure, said filling nozzle engaging said circumferential flange
during said steps of engaging a filling nozzle with the syphon tube structure and
dispensing a product through said filling nozzle.
16. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:
varying the diameter of said syphon tube along said syphon tube's axial
length.
17. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:
corrugating said syphon tube such that during said process of dispensing
a product through said filling nozzle, said syphon tube expands in diameter.
18. An apparatus for dispensing a flowable product comprising:
a container for holding said flowable product;
a syphon tube structure, said syphon tube structure comprising:
a syphon tube extending axially inwardly into said container;
an upper portion, said upper portion directly engaging said
container, an axially outward end of said syphon tube being connected to said
upper portion, said upper portion having a vent path, said vent path allowing air
to enter and exit said container during a filling and a dispensing operation.
19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein:

said upper portion is adapted to engage a filling nozzle to allow said product to fill said container via said syphon tube.

20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein:

said upper portion engages said container via a circumferential flange, said vent path passing through said circumferential flange.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:

a pump structure mounted on said container, said pump structure comprising a circumferential flange, said circumferential flange on said pump structure engaging said circumferential flange on said upper portion.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:

a second vent path passing through said circumferential flange on said pump structure, said second vent path being aligned with said vent path.

23. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein:

said upper portion comprises an axially-inwardly extending sidewall, said vent path passing through said sidewall.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising:

a pump structure mounted on said container, said pump structure engaging said axially-inwardly extending sidewall.

25. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:

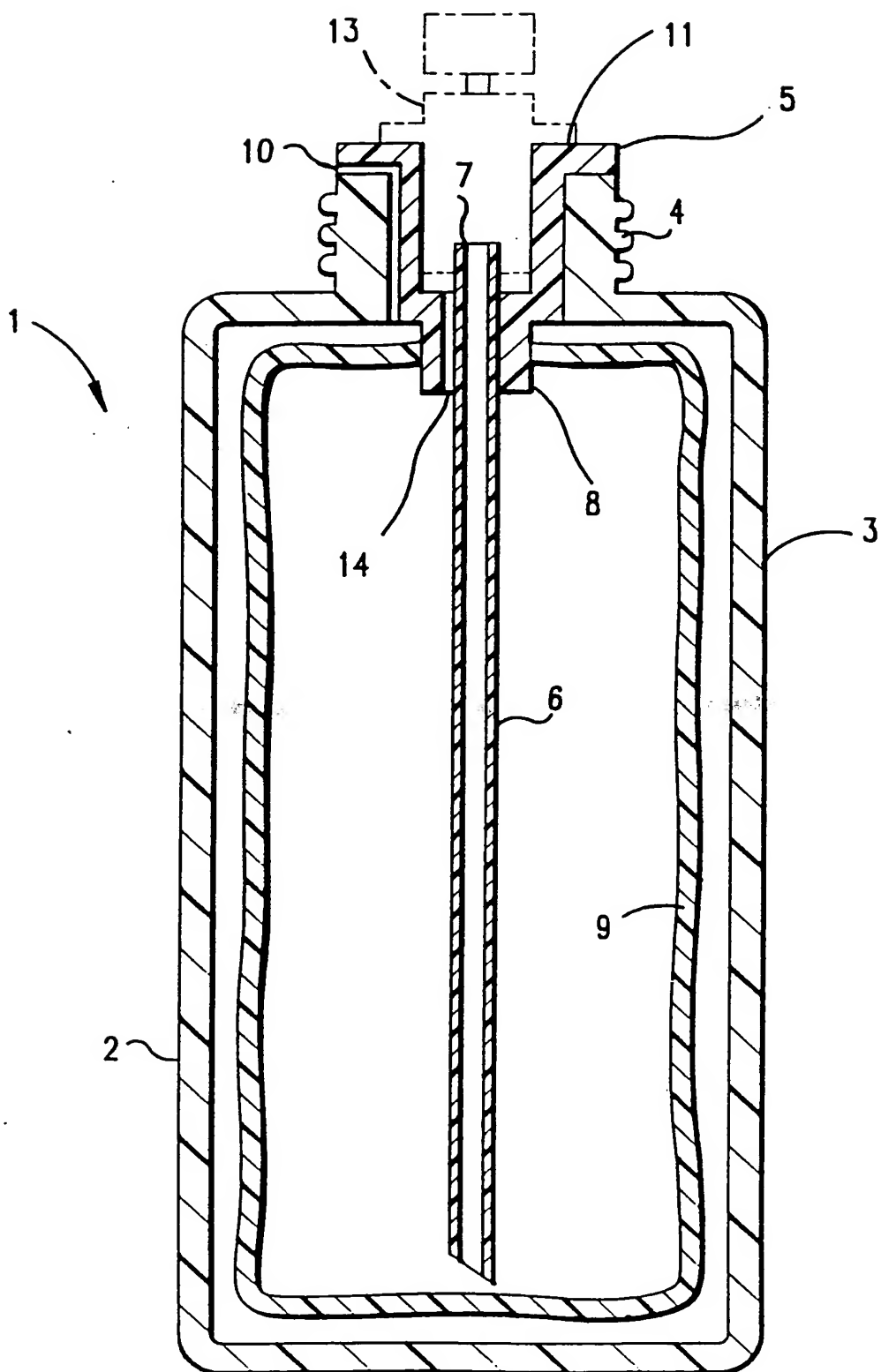
a pump structure mounted on said container, said pump structure having an inlet end adjacent an axially outward end of said syphon tube.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein:

said upper portion comprises an axially-inwardly extending sidewall, said pump structure engaging said sidewall.

27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein:
said upper portion comprises a circumferential flange, said pump structure engaging said flange.
28. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein:
said syphon tube structure is integrally formed with said container.
29. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein:
the diameter of said syphon tube varies along said syphon tube's axial length.
30. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein:
the syphon tube is corrugated.
31. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein:
the syphon tube is formed of a resilient material so that it normally biased into a collapsed condition.
32. An apparatus for filling and dispensing from a container comprising:
a tubular section; and
an upper section, said upper section being connected to said tubular section at an end of said tubular section, said upper section having a passage connecting an interior of said tubular section with an interior of said upper section, said upper section further comprising:
a first flange adapted to engage an outlet of a container;
a vent path; and
a second flange adapted to engage a filling nozzle inserted into said upper section.
33. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein:
said tubular section is corrugated.

34. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein:
the syphon tube is formed of a resilient material so that it normally biased into a collapsed condition.
35. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein:
said vent path passes through said first flange.
36. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein:
said upper section further comprises an axially extending sidewall, said vent path passing through said sidewall.
37. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein:
the upper section is further adapted to engage a pump structure.
38. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein:
the diameter of said tubular section varies along said tubular section's axial length.



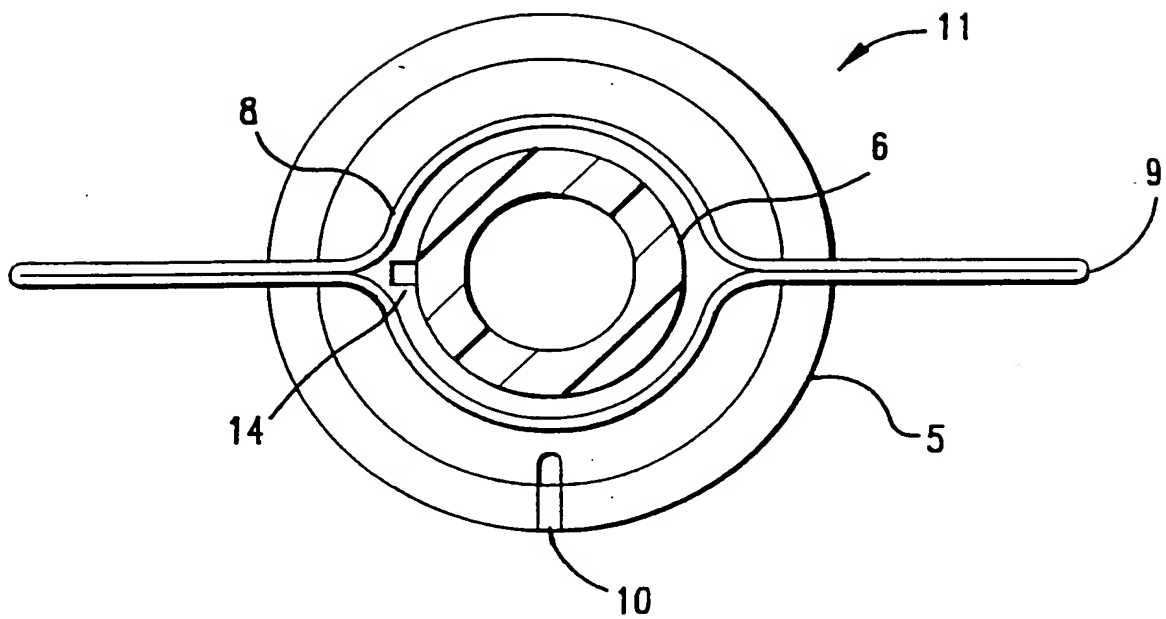


FIG. 2

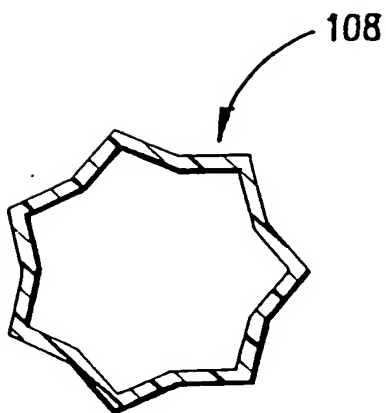


FIG. 11

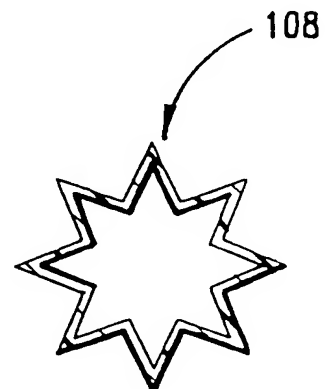


FIG. 12

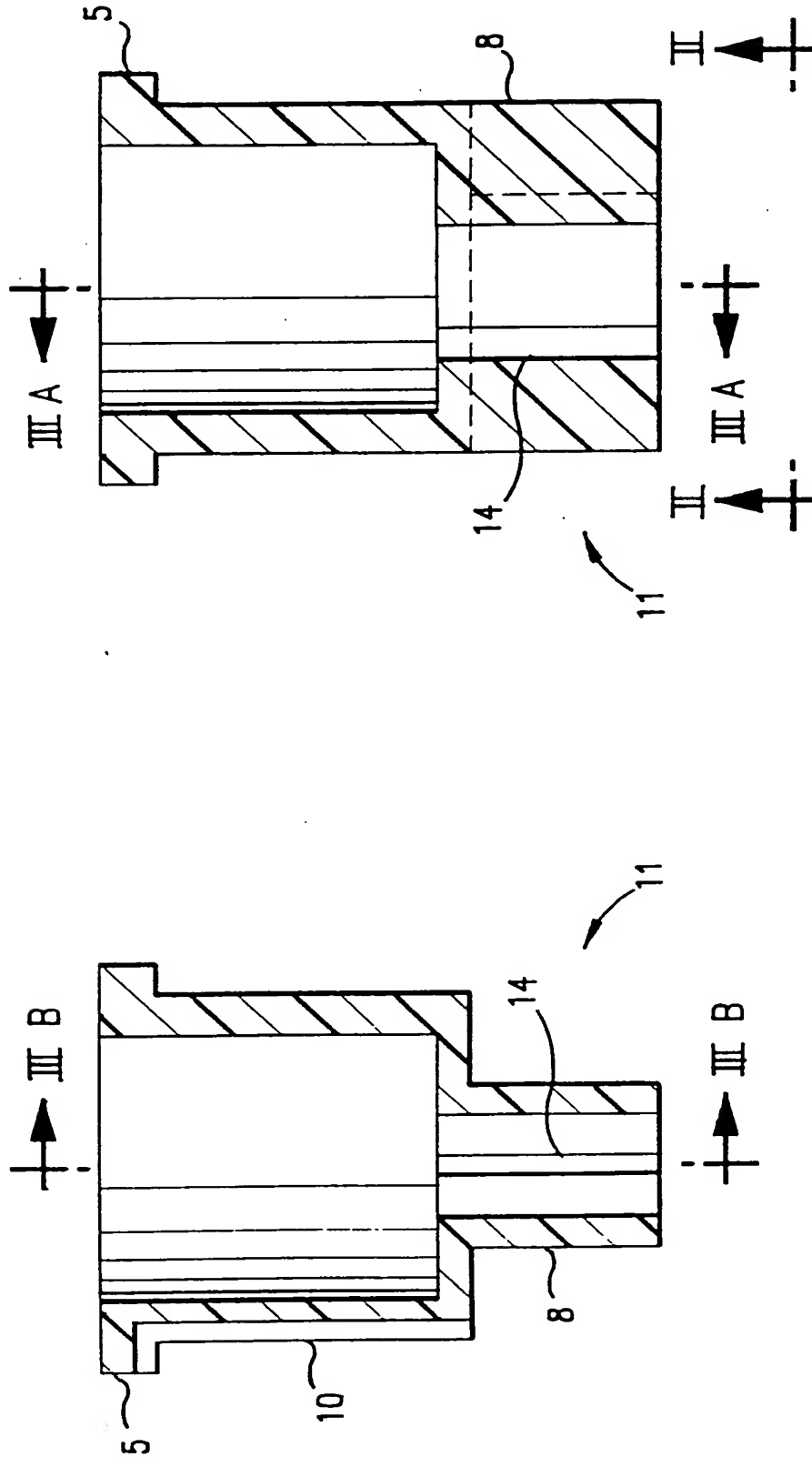
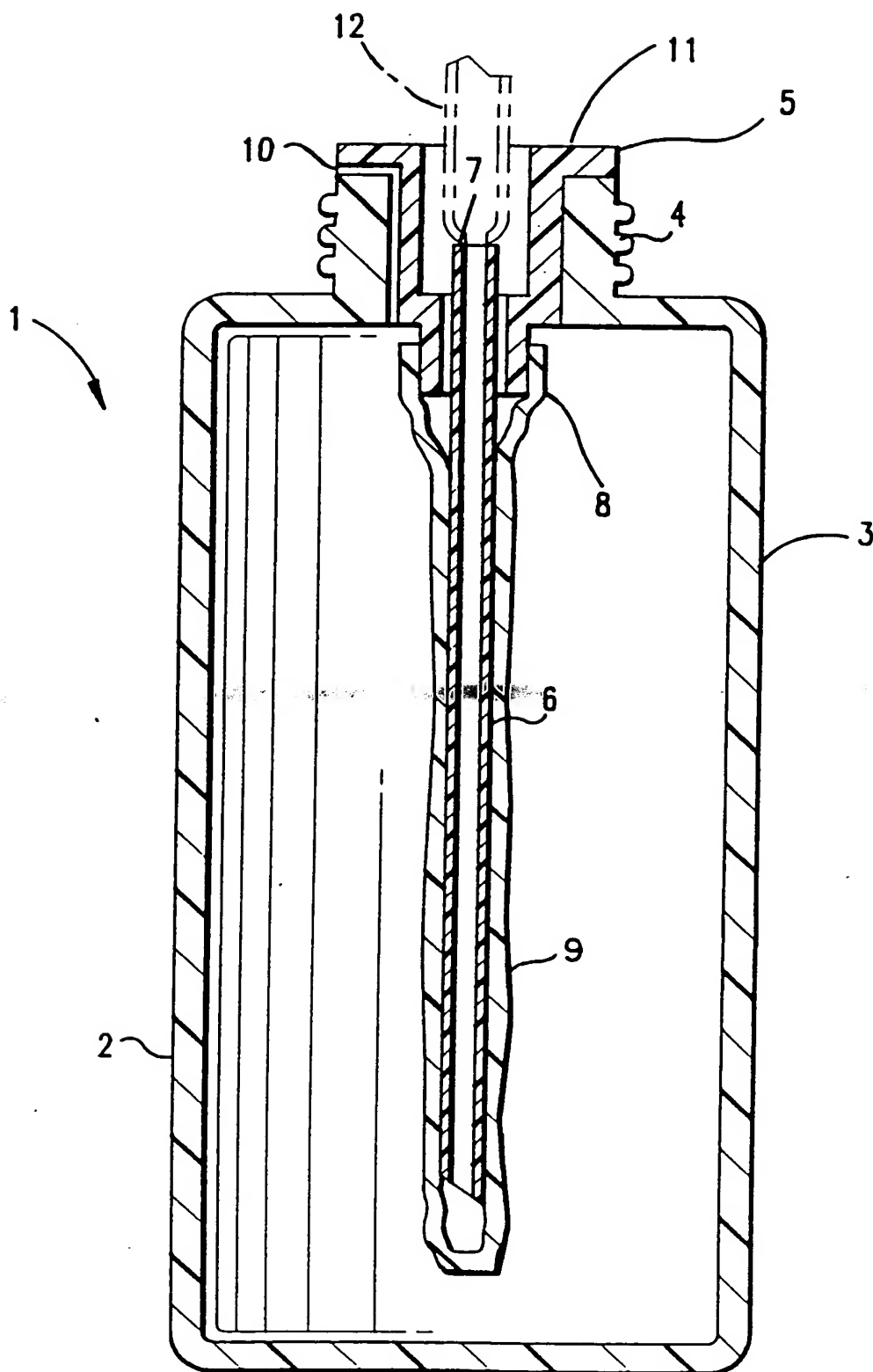


FIG. 3b

FIG. 3a



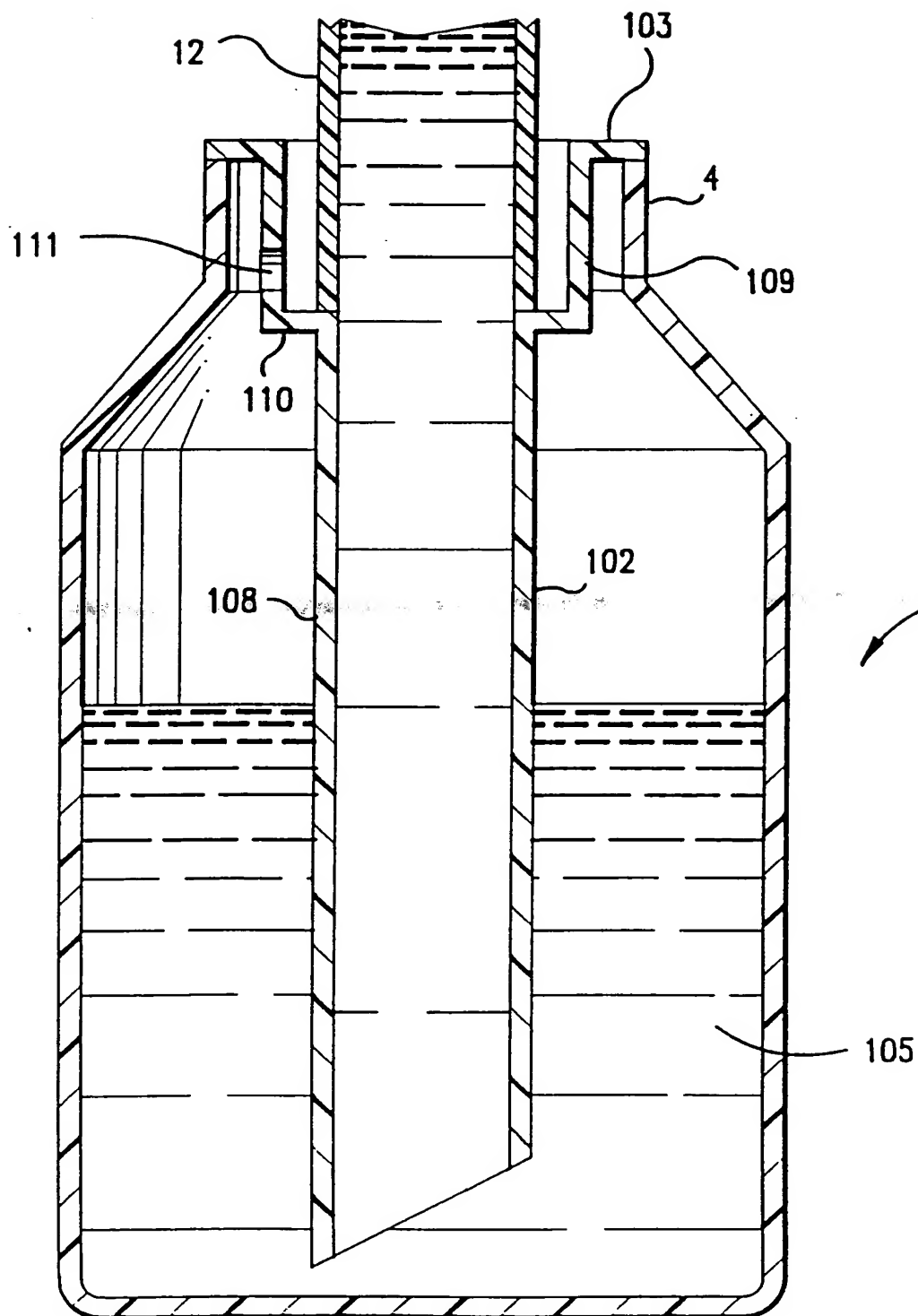
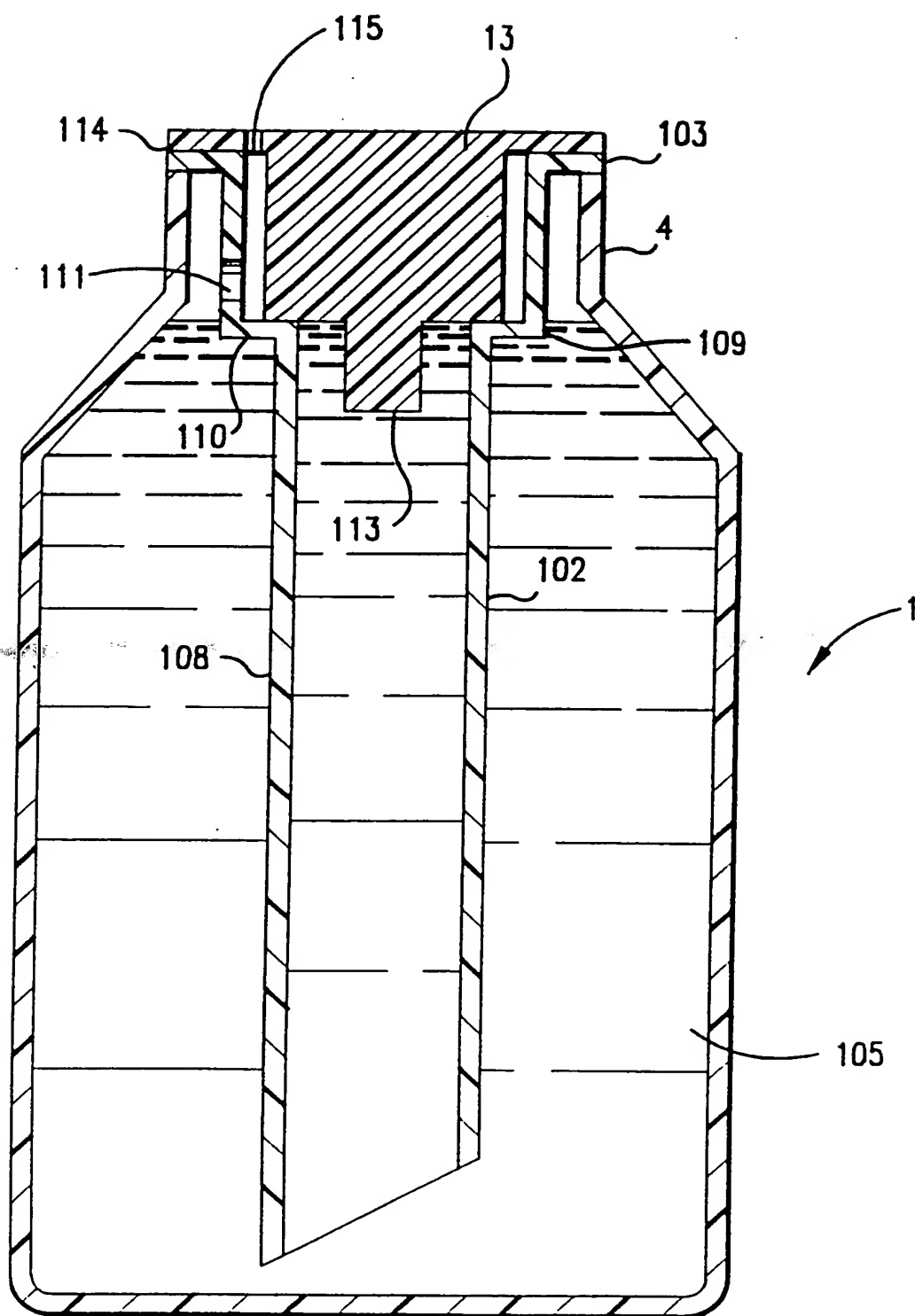


FIG.5



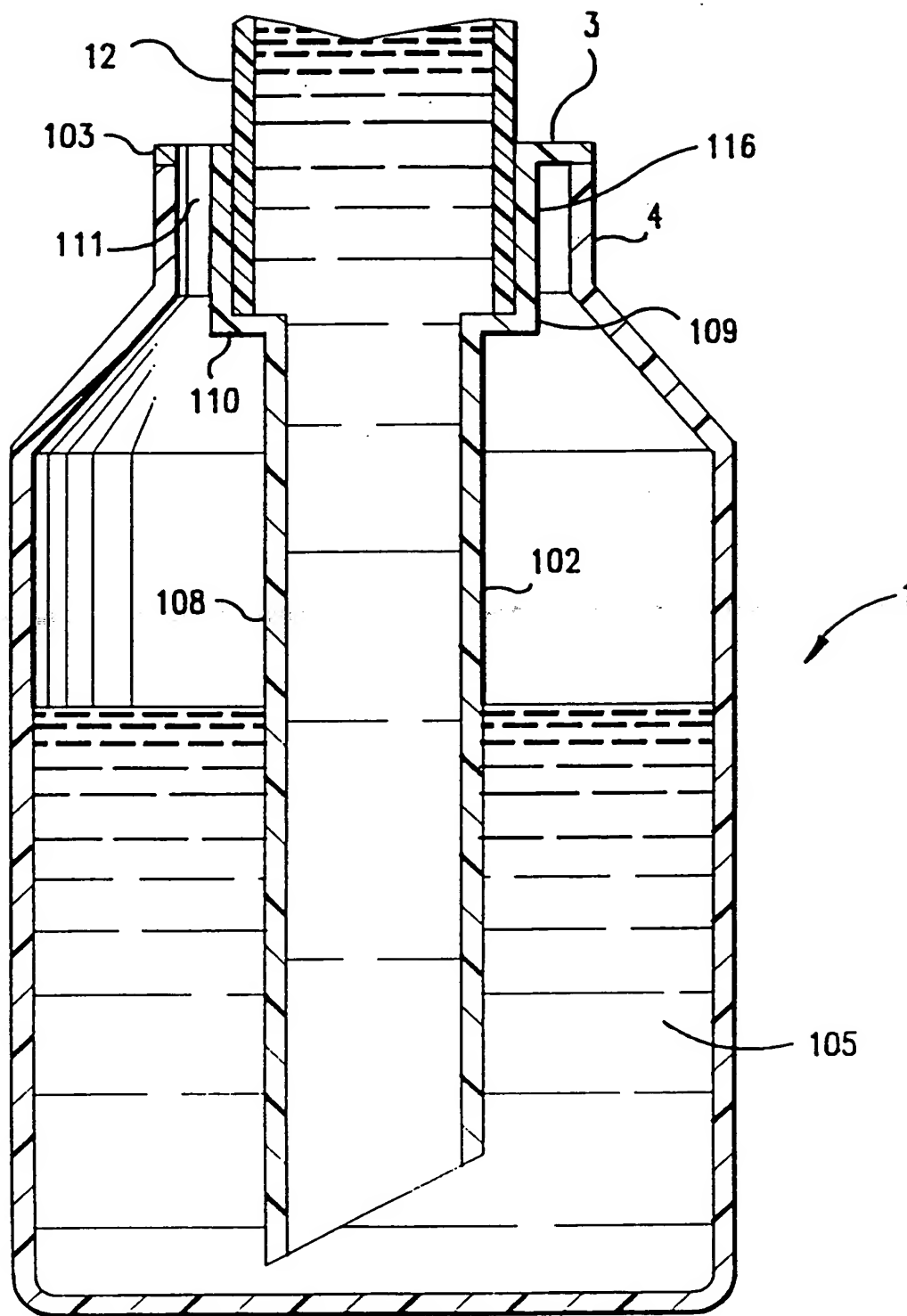


FIG. 7

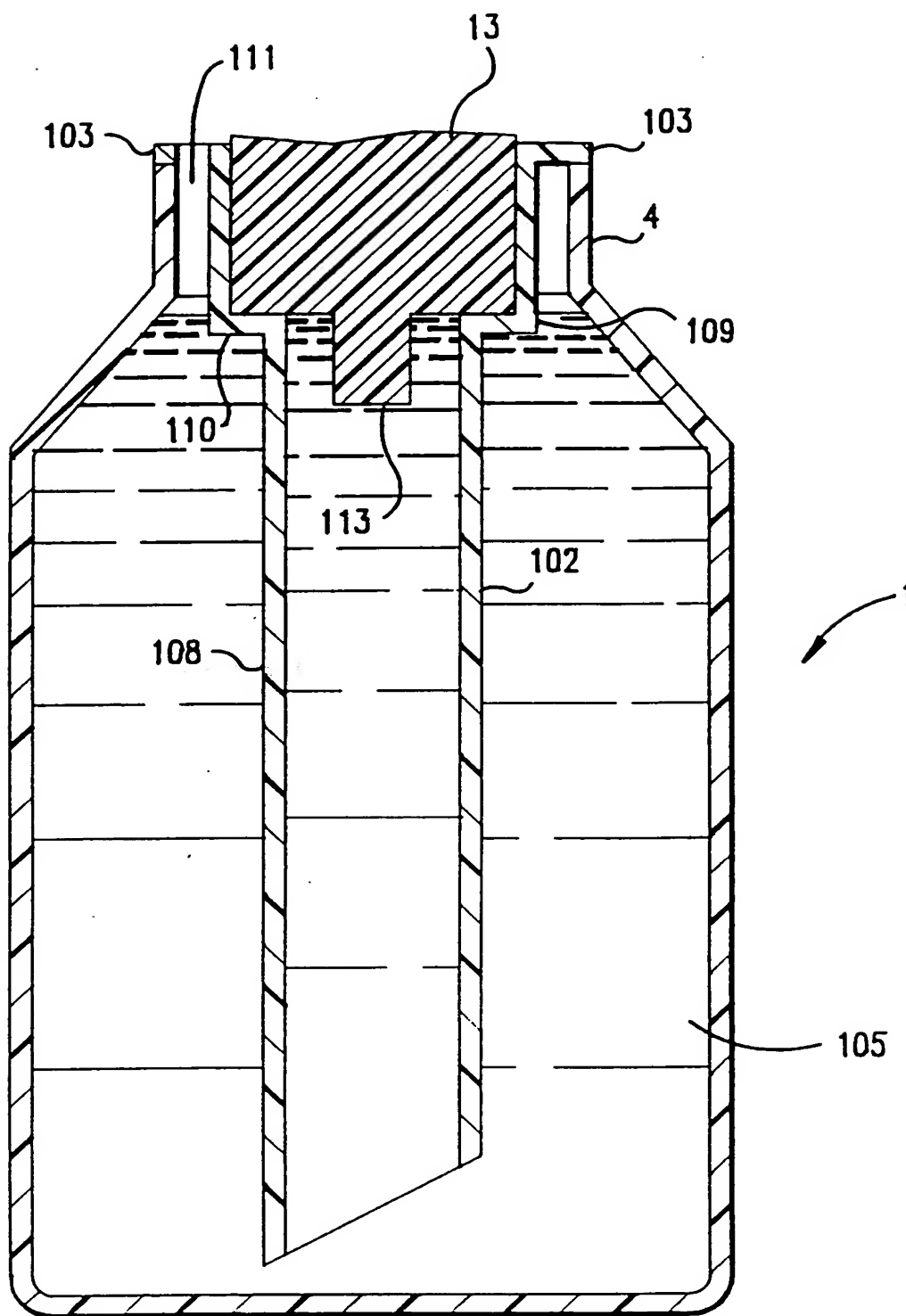


FIG. 8

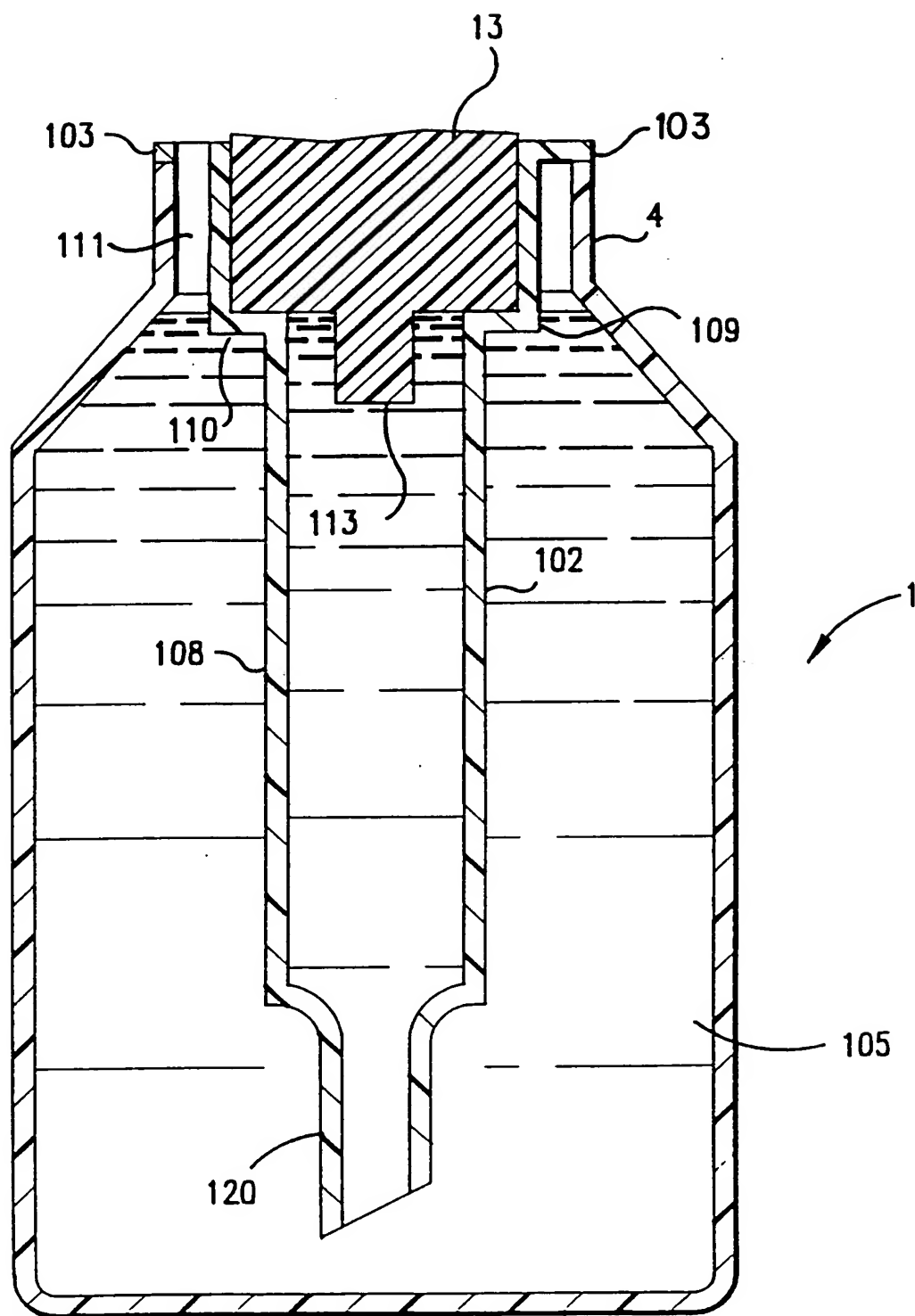
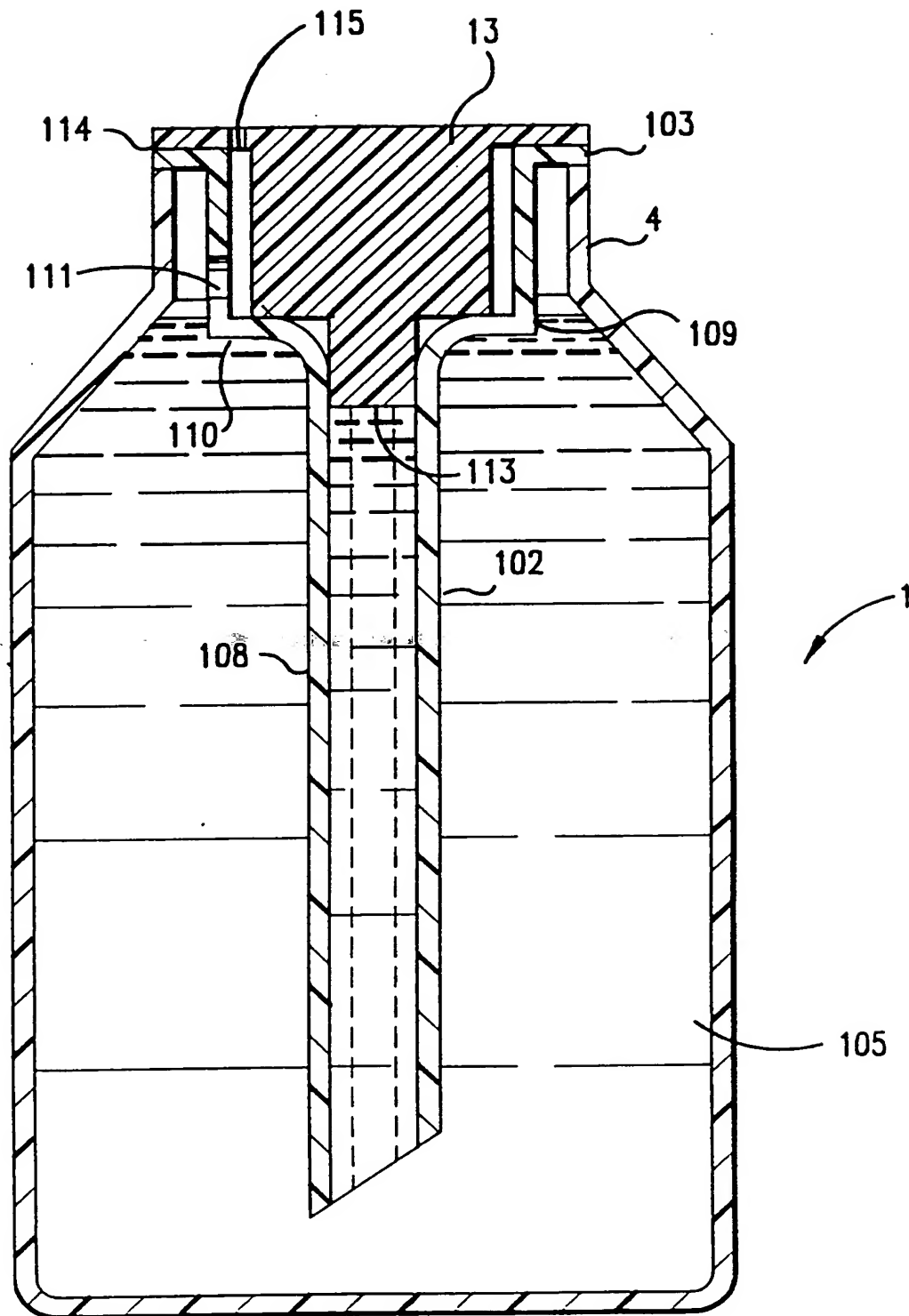


FIG. 9



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/US 93/04856

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC Int.Cl. 5 B65D83/00; B05B11/00		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
Int.Cl. 5	B65D ; B05B	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹		
Category ¹⁰	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
X	US,A,3 361 303 (C. JACUZZI) 2 January 1968 see column 1, line 61 - column 3, line 4	1,3,6-8, 18-21
A	---	5,32
Y	WO,A,8 202 034 (H. KATZ) 24 June 1982	1,3,5,9, 16,17, 29-31, 33,34,38
A	see page 4, line 16 - page 6, line 9 see page 8, line 16 - page 9, line 8 see page 13, line 30 - page 14, line 27 see page 18, line 11 - line 31 --- -/--	10
<p>¹⁰ Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>		
IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
16 SEPTEMBER 1993	23. 09. 93	
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	LILIMPAKIS E.	

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)		
Category °	Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
Y	EP,A,0 473 994 (KAUTEX WERKE REINOLD HAGEN AG) 11 March 1992 see abstract see column 5, line 2 - line 24 see column 5, line 45 - column 6, line 16; figures 1-4	1,3,5
A		7,8,11, 18,19, 23,32
P,X	--- EP,A,0 499 538 (SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE D' AÉROSOLS ET DE BOUCHAGE) 19 August 1992	7,8, 11-15, 18-21, 23-27, 32,36,37
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	see the whole document	
Y	--- FR,A,2 655 315 (A. COTTIN) 7 June 1991 see page 1, line 22 - page 2, line 10	10,22,35
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A		1,6-8, 11,32
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A	--- DE,A,2 710 984 (AERO-PUMP GMBH) 21 September 1978 see page 3, line 1 - page 4, line 2 -----	

**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

US 9304856
SA 74482

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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EP-A-0193054	03-09-86	DE-A- 3521580 AU-B- 596960 AU-A- 5366486 CA-A- 1294252 JP-A- 62001469 US-A- 4817829	21-08-86 24-05-90 28-08-86 14-01-92 07-01-87 04-04-89
DE-A-2710984	21-09-78	None	

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